

This softball powerhouse breezed through the tournament to win their fifth championship title in seven years at the Big League Softball World Series. In eight innings, Maryland defeated Puerto Rico in the Championship Game by a score of 3-1. I want my colleagues to know about the hard work ethic and determination these outstanding young athletes possess.

Mr. Speaker, this is a sports success story and fans were thrilled by the championship effort and heart displayed by these young women from Maryland. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Maryland District 7 Softball Team on their triumphant season.

The Maryland District 7 Softball Team: Jamie Baden, Lacy Cochran, Kim Fowler, Heather Hall, Heather Holley, Carrie Higdon, Cory Karcesky, Amanda Mitchell, Caryn Moreland, Lindsey Preuss, Kelly Seger, Maris Smith, Danielle Sturman, Jamea Waltersdorff, Abbey Welch, along with coaches Andy Adams, and Mike Kriner and manager Tommy Morrison.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
SUZANNE INSOOK AHN

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, my colleague EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON and I would like to pay tribute to the memory of our dear friend and a remarkable woman from Dallas, Dr. Suzanne Insook Ahn.

Dr. Suzanne Insook Ahn was born in Pusan, South Korea and raised in the United States. Dr. Ahn's beginning was very humble. Her father, Chai Ho Ahn, had been scratching out a living for his wife and children. Their community was so impressed with his intellect they collected \$143 to send him to a local college to start him on his way to become a doctor. The family patriarch never forgot his neighbors and friends, and until his retirement, he often returned to the village loaded with donated pharmaceuticals to treat patients.

Dr. Ahn joined her father a few years later in the U.S., and quickly acclimated to her new home, learning to speak fluent English just eight months after her arrival. She was the top student in her class through junior high school, and participated in many activities including the school debate team. She became an accomplished pianist, and at age 17, she entered the North Texas Beauty Contest and won first alternate. Upon graduation from high school, she decided to pursue pre-medical studies at the University of Texas at Austin. She was also a graduate of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School.

Dr. Ahn was a co-inventor of 23 U.S. medical patents. She was the founder of a medical division of a Hi-Tech start-up, and served as its president for three years. She was the founder and president of Dallas Summit, a group of Dallas women in decisionmaking positions. Dr. Ahn served on many boards, including the Texas Air Quality Board, National Board of Girls Inc., Women's Center of Dallas, DeGolyer Library of Women of the Southwest, and the board of the Hockaday School.

Dr. Ahn has made it a habit throughout her life to demonstrate that Asian Pacific Ameri-

cans are not "foreigners," but proud Americans. She especially believed in the democratic process, supporting candidates in their elections and developing close long-lasting relationships with them.

Former Texas Governor Ann Richards appointed Dr. Ahn to the Air Control Board during her governorship. Dr. Ahn also became the youngest person, and only the second woman, ever to be appointed to the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners in its 100-year history.

Dr. Ahn also knew too well about the negative side of political participation. When President Clinton ran for his second term of office, the Republicans accused the Democrats of illegal campaign contributions, specifically from China. Auditors questioned any contributor with an Asian-sounding surname, including Dr. Ahn, about their contributions. She was infuriated and let her feelings be known to the national media.

Appearing on ABC's Nightline, Ahn recounted her own experience: "The questions that [the auditor] asked were: one, what is your reported income on your tax statement; two, what are your assets; three, are you an American citizen?"

The questions came with threats. The auditor told Ahn that if she did not tell them everything that she would be listed as uncooperative and her name would be released to the press.

"When white men violate campaign finance rules," she pointed out, "they pay a fine and nobody gets hurt. There is no maligning of the entire race. I think there is an incredible double standard here."

Last year, Ahn made a surprise appearance at the Asian American Journalists Association's national convention meeting in Dallas, where she presented the group with a \$100,000 endowment, the largest gift the organization has ever received.

Friends and family will miss Dr. Ahn. She leaves behind her husband, Dr. Steven Hays, a nephrologist, their 17 year-old son, Foster, and 14 year-old daughter, Kimberly.

We are privileged to have had the opportunities to work with Dr. Ahn. What was most amazing about her was the hard work and determination she had in helping others. Her unmatched passion and love for public service will be missed by many. We join the residents of the Dallas/Ft. Worth community in extending our condolences to her family. The Great State of Texas was fortunate to have had Dr. Ahn, and we all have been greatly touched by her courage and life's work.

PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES FROM PAYING SUBSISTENCE CHARGES WHILE HOSPITALIZED

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 2998. Half way around the world, American men and women in the service of this country have once again heeded the call of duty. They bear

on their shoulders, the responsibility and commitment to ensure our freedom and all the values that we hold so dear. By taking on this task, they have made countless sacrifices in their own personal lives and safety, and for that, we are deeply indebted.

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to visit U.S. Army Soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. The soldiers I met are some of the most courageous men and women I've met in my lifetime. I listened to their stories, heard about their families back home and marveled at their dedication, bravery and commitment to serving our country. I hope and pray for their speedy recovery.

I also learned of some troubling information. Apparently, while soldiers are being hospitalized for wounds and injuries sustained while fighting for our country, they are billed for subsistence charges, i.e. food costs, that they accumulate during their stay. The current daily rate for this "subsistence" charge is \$8.10. This may not seem like much, however we must consider that in many cases, wounds may be significant and constitute longer hospital stays. This translates to higher costs that under new law must be paid by the servicemen.

If enacted, this bill would amend current law to prohibit service members injured in training or in combat from being held responsible for paying for their food costs while hospitalized in a military facility.

We must thank our men and women serving overseas for their selflessness and bravery. We should treat them with respect and gratitude. We should not, however, welcome them with a bill for the cost of their food while they were hospitalized. The soldiers have already been asked to sacrifice a great deal—they have endured harsh conditions, separation from loved ones and at times, irreparable wounds and injuries. Thus, it is imperative that we show our utmost appreciation for the work that they do.

During my visit to Walter Reed, I could not help but marvel at the energy, tenacity and humility of these servicemen and women. These are some truly inspiring young men and women, performing with courage and distinction in tough circumstances. I urge my fellow colleagues to support H.R. 2998. We owe it to our troops, to honor their incredible sacrifices, and to let them know that the American people value their efforts and that we all stand behind them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday October 7, and Wednesday October 8, 2003, I was overseas on an official congressional delegation trip to Iraq and unable to have my vote recorded on the House floor.

Had I been able to vote I would have voted the following: Rollcall No. 532: "yes"; Rollcall No. 533: "yes"; Rollcall No. 534: "no"; Rollcall No. 535: "yes"; Rollcall No. 536: "yes"; Rollcall No. 537: "yes"; Rollcall No. 538: "yes"; Rollcall No. 539: "yes."